

Serial No. **10/731,445**

Docket No. **K-0589**

Amdt. dated March 20, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figures 1 and 2 replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2. Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to remove the legend "Related Art."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification, and claims 1-13 are amended, and claims 15-20 are added. The drawings, Abstract and specification are amended for clarification purposes only. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), alleging that the “cabinet for a home appliance” recited in claims 1 and 7, and the “cabinet of a home appliance having a sectioned lid” recited in claim 12 are not shown in the drawings. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The home appliance shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application includes a cabinet 2 with a sectioned lid 14, the sectioned lid 14 including front and rear lids 15 and 16, respectively. Figure 3 is a cross section of a related art rear lid 16 used in the home appliance, taken along line A-A of Figure 2, which is just in front of the rear lid’s hinged attachment to the cabinet 2 of the home appliance (see also paragraph 5 of the present application).

Figure 4 is a cross section of a rear lid 16 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As with Figure 3, the cross section shown in Figure 4 is taken along line A-A

of Figure 2, just in front of the rear lid's hinged attachment to the cabinet 2 of the home appliance (see also paragraphs 15-18 and 20 of the present application). It is respectfully submitted that the "cabinet for a home appliance" recited in claims 1 and 7, and the "cabinet for a home appliance having a sectioned lid" recited in claim 12 are clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application, with Figure 4 providing a sectional view of the sectioned lid of the cabinet. To remove any confusion, Applicants are amending Figures 1 and 2 to remove the legend "Related Art" so that it is clear that these figures depict one embodiment of the claimed cabinet.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Figures 1 and 2 of the present application clearly show a cabinet for a home appliance having a sectioned lid comprising a first section and a second section having a first end hinge-coupled to the first section, as recited in independent claim 12, and a second end hinge-coupled to the home appliance, as recited in claim 13. As set forth above, Figure 2 clearly shows that the sectioned lid 14 includes front and rear lids 15 and 16, and paragraph 5 of the present application explains that the rear lid 16 is hinge-coupled at one end to the front lid, and at its opposite end to the home appliance. It would be well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, especially when taken in light of Figure 2 and its accompanying description in the specification, that these two portions 15 and 16 of the sectioned lid 14 are hinge-coupled to allow the sectioned lid 14 to function in the manner described (see also paragraph 4 of the present application).

Additionally, Applicants note that claims 12 and 13 merely recite the manner in which the second section of the sectioned lid is coupled to the first section and the home appliance. Claims 12 and 13 do not specifically recite a hinge or hinges which couple(s) the second section to the first section and the home appliance. Thus, as hinge(s) are not positively recited, it is respectfully submitted that it is not necessary to show the hinge(s) in the drawings.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.83(a), and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that the drawings meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,638,909 to Ford (hereinafter "Ford"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a cabinet for a home appliance, comprising an outer panel including at least one reinforcement rib integrally formed on an inner surface of the outer panel and extending from the inner surface of the outer panel to a predetermined length, and an inner panel including at least one boss provided on an inner surface of the inner panel in a position corresponding to the at least one reinforcement rib, wherein the at least one boss is

configured to engage the at least one reinforcing rib so as to couple the inner and outer panels. Independent claim 7 is directed to a cabinet for a home appliance, comprising an outer panel including a plurality of reinforcement ribs integrally formed on an inner surface of the outer panel and extending from the inner surface of the outer panel to a predetermined length; and, and an inner panel including at least one boss provided on an inner surface of inner panel in a position corresponding to the plurality of reinforcement ribs, wherein the at least one boss is configured to engage the plurality of reinforcement ribs so as to couple the inner and outer panels. Ford neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, or the claimed combination of features.

Ford discloses an airtight artist's paint box 10, including an outer box 12 with a base 14, vertical side walls 16, and a removeable cover 22. When the cover 22 is closed, a gasket 28 made of resilient material positioned on the under side of the cover 22 is compressed by the side walls 16, thus forming an airtight seal and preventing the escape of moisture from the box 10. Latches 24A, 24B hold the cover 22 closed against the outer box 12 and the gasket 28 compressed against the side walls 16. Ford's disclosure is clearly directed at an airtight artist's paint box 10, and Ford neither discloses nor suggests a cabinet for a home appliance as recited in independent claims 1 and 7.

Further, if the bottom 14 and sides 16 of the outer box 12 and the gasket 28 are compared to the outer panel, reinforcement rib(s) and boss, respectively, recited in independent

Serial No. **10/731,445**
Amdt. dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

Docket No. **K-0589**

claims 1 and 7, as asserted in the Office Action, then Ford neither discloses nor suggests a boss configured to engage the reinforcement rib(s) so as to couple the inner and outer panels, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7. More specifically, the gasket 28 merely closes a gap between the sides 16 and the cover 22 when the cover 22 is closed to prevent the escape of air, and the latches 24A, 24B hold the cover closed. Ford neither discloses nor suggests that the gasket 28 couples the outer box 12 with the cover 22 when the gasket 28 is compressed therebetween.

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the home appliance art would not be motivated to look to a special receptacle for artists' equipment (class 206/1.7) in order to address the problems with the prior art as set forth in the present application. Rather, it is respectfully submitted that Ford's paint box 10 is non-analogous art, and is thus improperly applied in a rejection of the claims of the present application.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Ford, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ford should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 8-11 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 7, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

Serial No. **10/731,445**
Amdt. dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

Docket No. **K-0589**

III. Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ford. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 3 is allowable over Ford at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over Ford, and thus the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ford should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Design Patent No. 313,679 to Sakamoto (hereinafter "Sakamoto") in view of Ford. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that there would have been no motivation to combine the Sakamoto and Ford references. As set forth above, the artist's paint box 10 disclosed by Ford is clearly from a different field of endeavor than the washing machine disclosed by Sakamoto, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to look to special receptacles for artist's equipment when looking for a structure for a cabinet of a washing machine. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references is improper. Withdrawal of the rejection on these grounds is requested.

In addition, independent claim 12 is directed to a cabinet for a home appliance having a sectioned lid comprising a first section and a second section having a first end hinge-coupled to

Serial No. **10/731,445**

Docket No. **K-0589**

Amdt. dated March 20, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

the first section. The cabinet recited in independent claim 12 comprises an outer panel having at least one reinforcement rib integrally formed on an inner surface of the outer panel and extending from the inner surface of the outer panel to a predetermined length, and an inner panel having at least one boss provided on an inner surface of the inner panel in a position corresponding to the at least one reinforcement rib, wherein the at least one boss is configured to engage the at least one reinforcement rib so as to couple the inner and outer panels. As acknowledged by the Examiner in the remarks regarding independent claim 12, Sakamoto neither discloses nor suggests such features. Further, as set forth above, Ford fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sakamoto.

For these additional reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 is allowable over even the improper combination of Sakamoto and Ford, and thus the rejection of independent claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto and Ford should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 13 and 14 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 12, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

IV. New Claims 15-20

New claims 15-20 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 15-20 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 7 and 12, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

Serial No. **10/731,445**
Amdt. dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

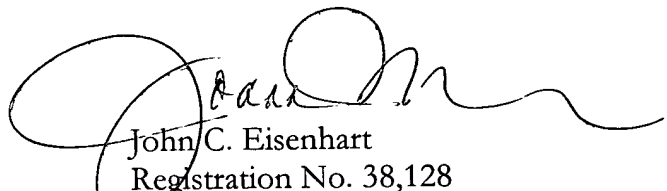
Docket No. **K-0589**

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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FIG. 1
~~Related Art~~

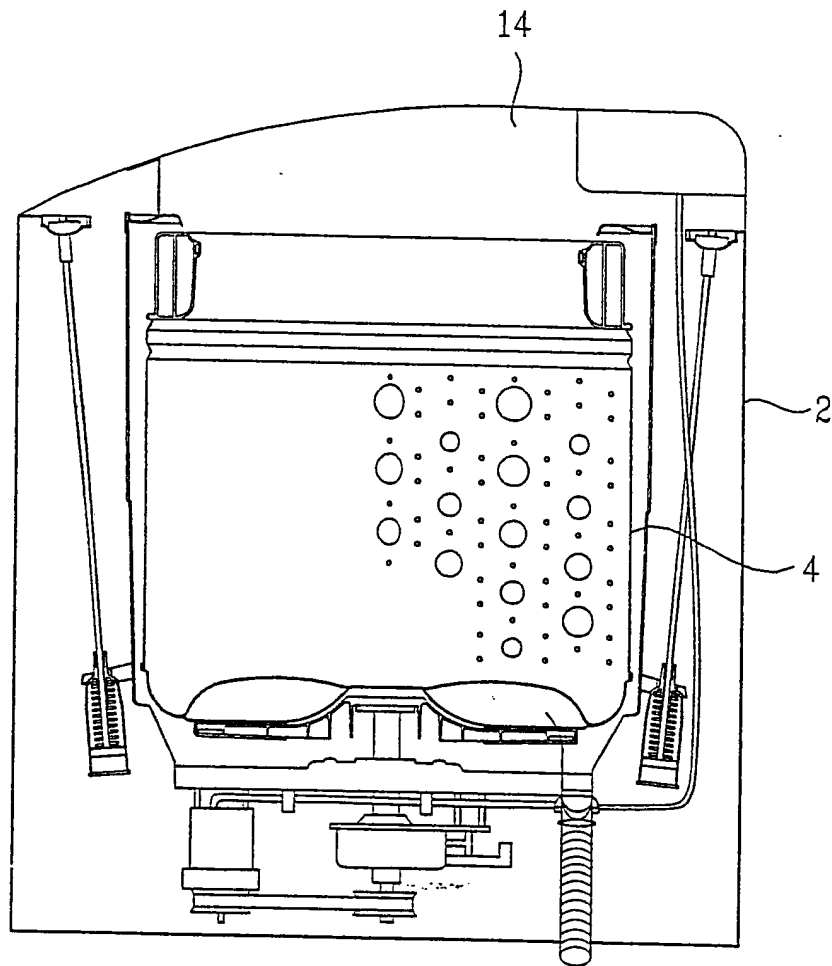


FIG. 2
~~Related Art~~

